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THE NIKOS KAZANTZAKIS CHAIR
SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

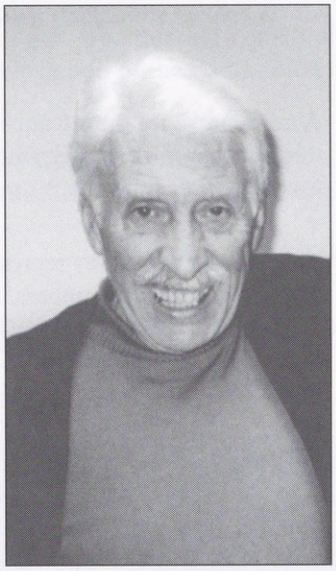
Μαντατοφόρος

ΕΔΡΑ ΝΙΚΟΥ ΚΑΖΑΝΤΖΑΚΗ
MODERN GREEK STUDIES FOUNDATION

SUMMER 1999 MANTATOPHOROS: "BEARER OF NEWS, MESSENGER" VOL. 14, NO. 2

Prof. Emeritus Thanasis Maskaleris Honored

On March 14th, 1999, Professor Emeritus Thanasis Maskaleris was congratulated for his lifelong achievements at a testimonial dinner held in his honor. A poet as well as a translator and critic of contemporary Greek literature, Professor Maskaleris taught courses in Modern Greek, Comparative Literature, and Creative Writing at San Francisco State University until his recent retirement in 1996. He was Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies from the time it was founded in 1981 until he retired. His experience, his knowledge and noble efforts led to the establishment, in 1983, of the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair at San Francisco State University. During these years he devoted his energies to teaching, writing, translating, developing community programs for the Hellenic-American Community and society at large, and serving (*ex-officio*) on the Board of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation. Professor Maskaleris came to San Francisco State University in 1967. Among his publications are *Poems and Translations, Kostis Palamas—A Critical Study,* and *Palamas and World Literature*. He is currently working on a critical-biographical study of Nikos Kazantzakis.



Ms. Patricia Aleck served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the occasion which included greetings and remarks from Dr. Robert A. Corrigan, President, SFSU, Dean Nancy McDermid, College of Humanities, SFSU, the Hon. Louis J. Papan, California State Legislature and poet, Nanos Valaoritis, Professor Emeritus, SFSU. Warm sentiments were shared by Dr. Peter D. Haikalis, President, Modern Greek Studies Foundation, Former Senator Nicholas C. Petris, the Kazantzakis Chair Founding Benefactor, Angelo K. Tsakopoulos, and Professor Martha Klironomos, Director, Center for Modern Greek Studies, SFSU.

(continued on p. 6)

CMGS Recent Lectures

Spring semester 1999 the Center for Modern Greek Studies / Nikos Kazantzakis Chair at San Francisco State University hosted a number of specialists in Byzantine and Modern Greek culture and literature.

On Friday, Feb 19th, 1999, Professor Marios Byron Raizis, Department of English, University of Athens, lectured on the Greek national poet, "Dionysios Solomos and Modern Greek Poetry." Professor Raizis' lecture focused on drawing parallels between Solomos' poetics and that of his British Romantic counterparts, e.g., Percy Shelley and Lord George Byron. On the occasion of this presentation, Professor Raizis also introduced the audience to his latest publication, *Dionysios Solomos, Poetry, Faith, and Motherland: Collected Poems* (Minnesota: Nostos 1998), which include his translations of the poet's oeuvre and an introduction to the poetry. *(continued on p. 6)*

News about our Students

Marlene Broemer, a graduate student in the Department of World and Comparative Literature, received her Master's Degree in Comparative Literature at the SFSU May 1999 graduation. Ms. Browmer wrote her M.A. thesis on "War and Repression in Valéry, Akhmatova and Seferis" under the supervision of Professor Klironomos. We are delighted at Ms. Broemer's achievements and wish her success in her future endeavors.

Professor Klironomos and Ms. Broemer

Center for Modern Greek Studies Courses - Fall 1999

MGS/GRE 150 **Modern Greek I**
Instructor: **Professor Martha Klironomos**
Time: **MW 2:10-3:25 pm**

Introduction to the Modern Greek language. Basic oral expression, listening comprehension, reading and writing will be emphasized. This is a GE course.

MGS/GRE 365 **Intermediate Modern Greek III**
Instructor: **Staff**
Time: **Tues. 3:35-6:20 pm**

A continuation of Modern Greek II. Accelerated emphasis on conversation, grammar, reading, and writing in

MGS 152 **Modern Greek Conversation**
Instructor: **Staff**
Time: **Tues. 7:00-9:00 pm**

A new course for the advanced beginner, offered through the College of Extended Learning, and geared toward practical language usage.

WCL 420.2 **Nobel Prize Authors**
Instructor: **Professor Martha Klironomos**
M 4:10-6:55 pm

This course will survey representative literary texts by Nobel Prize winning authors in transnational perspective. Writers to be studied include Ernest Hemingway, George Seferis, Odysseas Elytis and Derek Walcott, all of whom incorporate an aspect of Greek culture in their work.

Registration Information

San Francisco State University
Students should register through SFSU touchtone system.

College of Extended Learning
Any adult in the community may enroll in University courses without being formally admitted to the University. To find out details of enrollment, please contact SFSU College of Extended Learning at (415) 405-7700.

Eldercollege
This program is also for those over 60. Although it is not possible to earn a degree through Eldercollege, you may audit regular classes on a space available basis. You do not need to meet the standard requirements for admission to be a part of this program. The fee is $45 per semester. Please note that this fee does not apply for courses offered through the College of Extended Learning. For more information, call the Urban Elders Program at (415) 338-2127.

Over-Sixty Program
Persons 60 years of age or older can earn a Baccalaureate or Master's degree at the University without payment of admission or registration fees. You only pay a $3 fee for each term you attend. To be eligible for the program, you must:

1) be at least 60 years of age
2) have been a California resident for a full year immediately preceding your enrollment
3) meet the standard requirements for admission to the University.

For more information call the Urban Elders Program at (415) 338-2127. Please note that this special fee does not apply for courses offered through the College of Extended Learning

For more information, contact the **Center for Modern Greek Studies** , e-mail: modgreek@sfsu.edu. Telephone: 415-338-1892. You may also check the website at www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/mgstu.htm.

Our Sincere Thanks for your Generosity!

Without the enthusiastic and generous support of our many donors, it would have been impossible to make 1998/99 the successful year that it is was for the Center and the Foundation. To mention a few of our accomplishments

- **Completion of the first phase ($500,000) of building the endowment to support the Center and its Nikos Kazantzakis Chair.**
- **Support for a course in Modern Greek history offered by the Center during the past academic year.**
- **Draft Proposal for a Greek American Northern California Archive at the Center which will be come a repository of oral and visual history of our commuity for future generations.**
- **Third showcasing of the art of Northern California Greek American Artists in Exhibit and Sale sponsored by The Foundation.**
- **Testimonial banquet in honor of Professor Emeritus Thanasis Maskaleris and the creation of the Maskaleris Scholarship to be awarded to a student enrolled in courses under the auspices of the Center.**

With the help of each gift, whether large or small , a successful year of courses, activities and programs has been achieved. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors, we wish to thank you all for making it possible.

George M. Marcus, *Chairman of the Board, Modern Greek Studies Foundation*
Peter Haikalis, Ph.D., *President of the Board. Modern Greek Studies Foundation*

Oakland AHEPA Donates $5000 to MGSF/CMGS

During the Grand Banquet of the 67th Annual Convention of the Golden Gate District #21, the Oakland AHEPA Chapter #171 presented Modern Greek Studies Foundation President Peter Haikalis with a check for $5000. This gift completes a pledge of $10,000 made by the Chapter to support the work of the Foundation and the Center and its Nikos Kazantzakis Chair during 1998/99. Funds were raised at very successful dinner dance sponsored by Oakland AHEPA last April, which was chaired by MGSF Board Member Harry Metaxas and his wife Louise.

In acknowledging this gift, Dr. Haikalis took the opportunity of thanking not only Oakland Chapter #171 but also the entire Ahepa Family of District 21 for their generous financial support over the last several years. More than $20,000 has been donated by them to the Kazantzakis Chair Endowment Fund, to support various Center activities and to underwrite a course on Modern Greek History. Dr. Haikalis also spoke briefly about the educational mission of AHEPA and the importance of supporting programs of Modern Greek Studies in academic institutions such as San Francisco State University.

Kazantzakis Chair Endowment Reaches 1st Target of $500,000

It was with a great deal of pleasure and pride that MGSF President Peter Haikalis presented San Francisco State University President Robert Corrigan with check for $10,000 at the Maskaleris Testimonial Dinner. This gift to the University marked the completion of the first phase of the Kazantzakis Chair endowment fund drive by achieving the initial target of $500,000 pledged by the local Greek American Community to SFSU when the Center and Chair were established some 18 years ago. This fund raising effort was initiated by a major gift from Angelo Tsakopoulos and has been more than matched by thousands of donations — large and small — by individuals, corporations and organizations throughout the United States. On behalf of the Foundation and the Center, many thanks to all of you for your generous support in making this dream come true.

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Other Donations

The **Navarino Messinian Society** recently donated $4,000 to the MGSF, proceeds from their recent Annual Apocreatiki Macaronda Dinner. These funds will go towards underwriting a portion of the costs needed to fund the proposed Greek American Archive at the Center. Many thanks to all of the members of the Navarino Messinian Society from both the MGSF and the CMGS.

The CMGS has recently received book donations from:

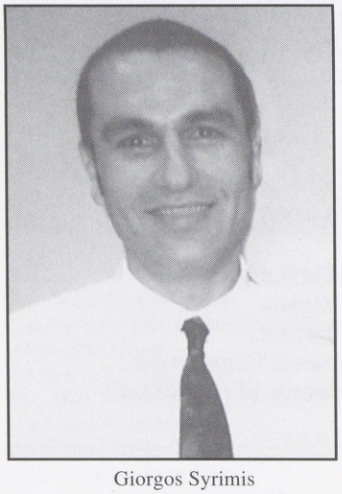
The Hellenic Parliament
John B. Vlahos
Dr. Roland Moore
The Alexander S. Onassis Foundation
Cultural Attaché Dr. Ioannis Mavrommatis

We apologize for any omissions or errors.

Recent Lectures, *(continued from p.1)*

On Monday, March 8th and Tuesday, March 9th, 1999, Professor Peter Bien, Department of English, Dartmouth College, a world-renowned expert and translator of Nikos Kazantzakis' presented two lectures on the author's work. The first presentation was on "Kazantzakis's Travel Writing" in which he surveyed Kazantzakis's travelogues, including *Japan and China*, and offered an assessment of the author's contribution to this important genre. The second presentation on "Kazantzskis' Religiosity" draws on one of Professor Bien's recent publications, *God's Struggler: Religion in the Writings of Nikos Kazantzakis*, co-edited with Darren Middleton, (Mercer, 1997). It presents a number of essays by noted literary scholars and theologians who provide fresh new insights — from the historical and philological to the theological and philosophical perspectives — and treat the question of Kazantzakis' religiosity and the continuing controversy surrounding his texts. Students in the Kazantzakis 425 World and Comparative Literature Course had the opportunity to meet Prof. Bien and to explore even further issues related to Kazantzakis' work.

On Friday, March 19, 1999, Giorgos Syrimis, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, presented " 'Loves and Stirrings that Estrange': The Love of Hellenism and the Hellenism of Love in Cavafy's Poetry," which drew on material from his dissertation on the Alexandrian poet. In it, Syrimis examines the poet's representation of eroticism in his poetic texts and links it to contemporary thinking within the discourse of Hellenism.



Giorgos Syrimis

On Tuesday, April 20, 1999, Dr. Maria Mavroudi, who received her Ph.D. in Byzantine Studies at Harvard University in 1998, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on "The Contemporary Image of Byzantium: The Cultural Implementation of a Political Choice," using a number of eclectic examples from Greece's political culture in the 19th and 20th centuries to illustrate her points.

Dr. Maria Mavroudi

Finally, on Friday, May 14, 1999, Assistant Professor Panayiotis Roilos, Department of Greek and Latin, Ohio State University, spoke on the "Image of Byzantium in Kazantzakis' Work" drawing on Kazantzakis' prose and plays such as *Report to Greco* and *Julian the Apostate*.

Prof. Maskaleris Honored, *(continued from p. 1)*

Professor Maskaleris was honored for his distinguished service towards the development of the Center and for his contribution to Hellenism. He was presented with the Greek Government's "Order of the Phoenix" by the General Consul of Greece, Dr. Taxiarchis-Aghis Christopoulos.

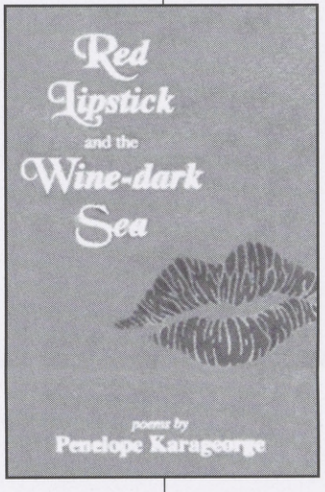
The Testimonial Dinner Committee included Honorary Chair, Athena Vutiritas, Chair Patricia Aleck, Co-Chair Constance Aretos, and members, Anastasia Condas, Harriet Boone, John Cladis, Titika Koplos, Cleo Lekas, Chrysanthy Leones, Virginia Lagiss, Alexis Laris, and Mary Thodos. Event sponsors included Patricia Aleck, Susan and Peter Haikalis, Chrysanthy Leones, and the Board of Directors of the Modern Greek Studies Foundation.

Penelope Karageorge. ***Red Lipstick and the Wine-dark Sea.*** **New York: Pella Publishing Co., 1997.**

Red Lipstick and the Wine-dark Sea, is a newly published compilation of poems by Greek American poet Penelope Karageorge. Her poetry takes as its frame of reference shared images from everyday life as its female personas move effortlessly from a postmodern American urban cityscape to a Greek pastoral landscape: Karageorge's heroines vacillates from the sleek, commercialized glamour of upscale New York City, where "the world's sky-high," "a landscape of neon and stone," "granite walls festooned with diamonds," to the elemental, natural beauty of a Greek island village, "the sun-dried field," "the wine-dark" and "crystal sea."

Here is an excerpt from Karageorge's poem "Exile," for example, in which a Greek American woman returns to her grandmother's house on the island of Lemnos. Inundated by memory, the persona's exilic consciousness externalizes loss—that which it had sought to overcome in the symbolic return:

When I return to my Greek house
in the village
of Lichna, the stones
await me.
I swallow them with salt and
greens and weep.
Yiayia, I live in your
house.
Exile. Reject.
Abandoned by your husband, you
embroidered tears
into linen. The rocks
received you
and you ate them and served glyko
and then walked
up the steep stairs on short legs.
Yiayia, we swallow stones fragrant with
oregano,
yellow tear stones we pluck
from the sea.



In "Avenue'B' Rembetiko" Karageorge relates the confusion of a young Greek American woman who thinks back upon her search for female "role models"— both real and unreal, ancestral and mythic ones. Her American habits and tastes differ markedly from the mores and ways of her metanastic, peasant forebearers, her maternal "first loves," whom she regards as "foreign" and as "guests" set apart from herself:

Hardship traveled from Greece
with them.
Tragic eyes set them apart,
guests in this Lana-Turnered
landscape
of America. But I, fed on Rice
Krispies and
speaking no other tongue than
English, was
anointed to go forth
smiling,

although
my first loves were foreign
and solemn,
ancient black-dressed ladies
with paper
sacks who dug in dirt for
dandelion
greens, and taught me to
sop up
olive oil from a plate
rimmed with bluebirds.

Karageorge's volume is only one of a number of recent publications by Greek and Greek American women authors, such as Irini Spanidou and Catherine Temma Davison, to have gained national and critical attention of late.

Martha Klironomos
San Francisco State University
Revised and abridged from a forthcoming book review in ***The Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora***

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Our current course offerings as well as other information about the Center for Modern Greek Studies can be found from the SFSU Humanities Web page at **www.sfsu.edu/~collhum/mgstu.htm**

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